ailability and policy frame work. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government, through changes in policies & procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and in consultation with Trade and Industry. Having regard to the performance during the year, exports would be lower than was envisaged at the beginning of the year.

(c) and (d) The Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested the formation of a National Export Council. A decision on this has not yet been taken.

Agreement with SAFTA

164. SHRI SANJAY DALIMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the agreement of South Asian Free Trade Area;

(b) the likely date of its coming into operation; and

(c) the level of trade undertaken among SAFTA countries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Tariff preferences amongst SAARC members countries have been exchanged under the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA). SAPTA has become operational with effect from 7 December, 1995. The South Asian Free Trade Area is expected to be realised by the year 2000 but not later than 2005.

(c) India's imports and exports to the SAARC countries during the last three years are as under:

India's Exports Rs. Crores/(%age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan	%age of World Trade Total
1993-94	1349.31 (31.12)	903.23 (25.75)	200.96 (36.63)	24.88 (11.87)	307.84 (46.69)	31.16 (395.88)	4.03
1994-95	2024.13 (50.01)	1151 (27.44)	179.71 (−10.57)	48.28 (94.04)	377.03 (22.48)	34.93 (11.76)	4.61
1995-96	3469.91 (71.43)	1335.62 (16.03)	256.8 (42.9)	52.52 (8,78)	536.45 (42.28)	47.56 (54.79)	5.36

Source: DGCIS

India's Imports Rs. Crores/(%age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan	%age of World Trade Total
1993-94	56.07 (151.14)	62.82 (57.59)	136.68 (−63.60)	1.02 (259.75)	90.68 (61.41)	9.35 (166.24)	0.48
1995-96	119.82 (113.70)	88.12 (40.27)	165.61 (21.17)	0.73 (−28.87)	114.89 (26.70)	57.40 (513.96)	0.60
1995-96	282.13 (135.5)	145.83 (65.5)	150.8 (−8.94)	0.55 (−24.66)	166.95 (45.31)	107.2 (86.76)	0.70

Source: DGCIS

Import and export from SAARC countries

165. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total import and export from SAARC countries, country-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the trade between the